



Sunset Caucus

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Taxpayer Subsidies to the Corporation of Public Broadcasting

June 30, 2010

Program or Item Targeted: Taxpayer subsidies to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

One-Year Cost of Program or Item: Subsidies to the Corporation will total over \$420 million in FY 2010, and are expected to total over \$445 million in FY 2012.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: The Corporation for Public Broadcasting was created by the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 as a private, non-profit organization with the intent of ensuring telecommunications services were available to all citizens of the United States. It receives 13% of its total income from taxpayer money, and over the past decade its funding has risen over 26%.

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: Federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is no longer relevant. The intent of federally-funded public broadcasting in the Public Broadcasting Act was to make “telecommunications services available to all citizens of the United States” (47 U.S.C. 396). Today, over 99% of Americans own a TV and over 95% have access to the Internet. The Corporation’s mission of ensuring universal access has been fulfilled and government-funded broadcasting is completely unnecessary. While the Corporation for Public Broadcasting airs several quality programs, it is perfectly capable of standing on its own two feet and not on the financial shoulders of the American taxpayers. In this struggling economy, families are under pressure to make ends meet while their hard-earned money is being used to subsidize select television preferences.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Representative Doug Lamborn (R-CO) has introduced H.R. 5538, which would amend the Communications Act of 1934 to eliminate federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Members are encouraged to contact Abby Gunderson at 5-4422 or at Abby.Gunderson@mail.house.gov to cosponsor or for more information.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail Brad.Watson@mail.house.gov.

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact Kimberly.Ellis@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”*

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Republican Study Committee